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Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1996 (2011), by which the Council established the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) for an initial period of one year and requested me to report to it on progress in the implementation of its mandate every four months. By its resolution 2057 (2012), the Council extended the Mission's mandate until 15 July 2013 and requested that I continue to provide trimesterly updates, including on the following: deployment of all Mission elements; force generation; implementation of the protection of civilians strategy; Mission benchmarks for mandate implementation; United Nations system support to peacebuilding tasks; and cooperation with regional and international partners in addressing the threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The present report provides an update on those aspects and on developments in South Sudan since my report of 8 March (S/2013/140). It covers events up to 20 June 2013. The report also contains recommendations regarding the renewal of the Mission's mandate.

II. Political developments

2. As South Sudan approaches the second anniversary of its independence, on 9 July 2013, the Government of South Sudan continues to face numerous challenges, including the ongoing internal instability and the austerity measures adopted following the shutdown of oil production in January 2012.

3. Although the Government remained preoccupied with efforts to address the security situation in Jonglei State during the reporting period, it also aspired to advance key national political processes, including national reconciliation and the constitutional review, as well as preparations for the census in 2014 and the elections in 2015.

4. The National Constitutional Review Commission approved a revised workplan in the light of the extension of its mandate until 31 December 2014. The Commission started a preliminary review of the Transitional Constitution through its five specialized subcommittees.

5. The National Elections Commission continued its activities in preparation for the elections. On 8 March, the Council of Ministers approved a budget for the Commission of South Sudanese pounds 30 million for the current fiscal year, which

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the National Legislative Assembly has yet to pass. The lack of funds has delayed the establishment of the State High Committees of the Commission and further recruitment of its secretariat staff. On 27 March, the Commission announced that any pending by-elections to various houses and executive positions would be held only after the Commission is fully established.

6. As indicated in my previous report (S/2013/140), on 12 February the Chair of the National Elections Commission requested the United Nations to provide technical, operational and logistical support for the 2015 elections. The United Nations will dispatch an electoral needs assessment mission to South Sudan to determine the parameters of the support to be provided by the Organization.

7. On 18 March, the National Bureau of Statistics also requested UNMISS to provide technical, operational and logistical support for the 2014 national census. The Bureau, supported by the United Nations Population Fund, will convene a partnership forum comprising 19 United Nations agencies and donors to mobilize donor funds and coordinate support for census activities.

8. On 23 April, the National Legislative Assembly reconvened following a four-month recess and deliberated on bills on the media, access to information, broadcasting, trade unions, advocacy, pensions and the HIV/AIDS Commission.

9. Meanwhile, the ruling party, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, convened a meeting of its Political Bureau in March. The Bureau produced a new draft constitution and manifesto for review by the party's National Liberation Council. The discussions also generated ongoing debate on the party's leadership. Meanwhile, the party's Extraordinary Convention, initially scheduled to be held in May, has been postponed.

10. On 15 April, the President issued a republican order withdrawing the executive powers delegated to the Vice-President and stipulating that the latter's responsibilities would be limited to those set out in article 105 of the Transitional Constitution, specifically, acting for the President in his absence from the country, serving as a member of the Council of Ministers and National Security Council, and performing other duties assigned by the President. The Vice-President continues to co-chair the Government of South Sudan-UNMISS Joint Mechanism on mandate implementation, and the Government-donor round table forum.

11. On 15 April, through another republican order, the President suspended the planned national reconciliation conference chaired by the Vice-President, replacing it with a new National Reconciliation Committee. The Committee, which is chaired by Archbishop Daniel Deng and comprises five religious leaders, representatives of all 10 States, and representatives of women, youth, and civil society groups, held its inaugural meeting from 21 to 23 May.

Anti-corruption measures

12. The Government continued to take steps to improve economic transparency and minimize financial mismanagement, including through the establishment of the National Oil and Gas Commission, the introduction of an electronic public financial management system, and amendments to the taxation system. The report of the Auditor-General for 2009 is under final review by the National Audit Chamber.

13. On 14 May, the Government announced the establishment of a committee, under the Ministry of Justice, to conduct criminal investigations into allegations of fraudulent overpayments by the Government in the 2009 corruption scandal involving the purchase of *dura*, or sorghum. The initial forensic audit and investigation was conducted by the World Bank and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

III. Economic situation

14. On 6 April, following the adoption on 12 March by South Sudan and the Sudan of the implementation matrix for the cooperation agreement of 27 September 2012, the Tharjiath oilfield in Unity State became the first in South Sudan to resume production since the shutdown on 12 January 2012. Oil production is not expected to reach pre-shutdown levels until early to mid-2014. In anticipation of the receipt of future oil revenues, inflation fell steeply. Despite significantly reducing expenditures during the austerity period, the Government ran up high monthly deficits, which were financed by external and domestic borrowing and an increase in budgetary arrears.

15. On 23 April, during his address to the National Legislative Assembly, President Salva Kiir cautioned that the national budget would continue to retain many of the current austerity measures until at least 2014. The President also reaffirmed that South Sudan would seek to diversify its revenue sources in order to reduce its dependency on oil.

16. The Government remains in discussions with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and other international partners regarding budget and balance of payments support. The South Sudan Economic Partners Forum, held in Washington, D.C., in mid-April, reaffirmed international donor support, with pledges of increased assistance contingent upon agreement on an IMF-supported programme for South Sudan and the signing of a compact, as envisaged under the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States.

IV. Regional issues

Relations between South Sudan and the Sudan

17. Considerable progress was achieved between South Sudan and the Sudan in the implementation of the cooperation agreement of 27 September 2012. On 12 April, the President of the Sudan, Omar Hassan al-Bashir, accompanied by a 65-person delegation, made his first visit to Juba since South Sudan became independent. During the visit, the two Presidents agreed to establish a joint high-level committee led by their respective Vice-Presidents to resolve remaining issues between the two countries, to support expeditious decision-taking and to promote bilateral relations. However, tensions between the two countries resurfaced in May and June over the alleged military support provided by each government to the other's rebel groups, which resulted in threats by the Government of Sudan to shut down its pipeline.

Foreign and diplomatic relations

18. On 19 April, the African Union formalized its presence in South Sudan with the signing of a host agreement for its liaison office in Juba. In March, South Sudan also entered into bilateral cooperation agreements with the Democratic Republic of the Congo and with Egypt. The agreement with the latter covers the areas of agriculture, health and animal resources.

Inter-mission cooperation

19. On 27 and 28 March, a joint delegation led by the African Union Special Envoy on LRA, Francisco Madeira, and my Special Representative for Central Africa and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, Abou Moussa, visited South Sudan to discuss the operationalization and implementation of the Regional Cooperation Initiative-Regional Task Force and the United Nations regional strategy against LRA.

20. UNMISS finalized a memorandum of understanding for its support to the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) in Juba, Malakal and Wau, as well as to the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. Reciprocal arrangements are in place in Gok Machar, where UNISFA has provided UNMISS with heavy construction machinery for completion of an UNMISS county support base, while UNMISS provides road convoy protection for the movement of material to UNISFA. UNMISS is also assisting UNISFA to identify a suitable location for its operations in Malakal.

V. Security situation

21. A significant deterioration in the security situation in Jonglei State, owing to increased activity of armed groups and military operations by South Sudanese security forces, had spillover effects on neighbouring Eastern Equatoria, Central Equatoria and Upper Nile States. Meanwhile, the tri-State area of Lakes, Unity and Warrap States continued to experience incidents of cattle raids that resulted in fatalities. On some occasions, the United Nations itself was the target of violence.

Attacks on the United Nations

22. On 12 March, an UNMISS convoy was ambushed approximately 14 kilometres west of Pibor town in Jonglei State by unidentified armed elements, resulting in the serious injury of an UNMISS peacekeeper. A United Nations Board of Inquiry team is currently investigating the incident. On 30 March, a United Nations convoy on the road between Kotchar and Manyabol in Jonglei State was attacked by unknown armed persons resulting in gunfire damage to the vehicles.

23. On 9 April, an UNMISS military convoy travelling to Bor from Pibor in Jonglei State came under fire approximately 8 kilometres outside Gumuruk by unidentified armed elements. The convoy suffered 12 fatalities: 5 members of the Indian Battalion; 2 UNMISS national staff; and 5 employees of a contracted borehole drilling company. On 20 May, a United Nations Board of Inquiry team arrived in Juba to start its inquiry. On 4 May, on the Bor-Juba road, Central Equatoria State, a vehicle belonging to a United Nations contractor was ambushed by unidentified gunmen. One contractor employee was killed and another wounded.

Armed group activity

24. Fighting between the Sudan People's Liberation Army and the armed group affiliated with David Yau Yau escalated in Jonglei State. In Pibor County, on 17 March, a Sudan People's Liberation Army convoy travelling from Pibor to Likuangole was ambushed by armed elements, reportedly resulting in the death of one Sudan People's Liberation Army soldier and seven wounded. On 21 March, an ambush on convoys of the Sudan People's Liberation Army and the South Sudan National Police Service, approximately 10 kilometres northeast of Gumuruk, resulted in the death of 14 Sudan People's Liberation Army soldiers. On 25 and 26 March, the Sudan People's Liberation Army, in another clash with the Yau Yau group near Kalbat and in Akelo, suffered over 100 casualties. There is little information on other casualties, including among civilians.

25. On 7 April, the Yau Yau group, referring to itself as the South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army, issued the Jebel Boma declaration and its manifesto. The declaration, inter alia, criticized the ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement for having focused on the ethnic background of different groups, while the manifesto highlighted that the South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army aims to free all marginalized communities in South Sudan.

26. Several clashes were also reported in Pochalla County, including two attacks on two locations on 16 and 21 April by armed elements affiliated with Yau Yau. On 28 April, the Sudan People's Liberation Army was again attacked by armed elements in the Marua Hills. On 6 May, the South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army issued a statement declaring that its forces had taken Boma. It also reiterated the group's determination to capture Pibor and Kapoeta (Eastern Equatoria State), while warning civilians to leave the area. On 13 May, the South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army issued another statement claiming that Pibor town was on the verge of falling under its control, adding that two battalions had been sent to attack Bor. On 20 May, the Sudan People's Liberation Army confirmed the recapture of Boma town from the Yau Yau armed group, indicating that at least 20 armed elements and four of its soldiers had been killed in the battle. Subsequently, there were reports that significant numbers of the Yau Yau armed group had been seen further north in Akobo County and in Upper Nile State, and were supposedly moving towards oil-producing areas.

27. On 25 April, through a republican order, the Government renewed its amnesty offer to six armed group leaders and their forces, including the Yau Yau group. The offer is currently being discussed with the South Sudan Liberation Army, the South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army, and the South Sudan Defence Forces, but has been spurned by the Yau Yau group, as was the case with earlier efforts to engage the latter prior to the onset of the rainy season. On 3 June, Johnson Olony, leader of the South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army, arrived in Fashoda County, Upper Nile State, together with his family and a number of his forces with equipment. The acting Governor of the State has indicated that he would be flown to Juba, along with his senior officers, for discussions with the Government.

Inter-communal violence

28. Inter-communal violence and loss of life increased considerably during the reporting period, in particular in the tri-State area of Lakes, Unity and Warrap States, in Jonglei State, and in Central and Eastern Equatoria States, reflecting the

high movement of cattle and cattles keepers during the dry season. For example, on 13 April, in Ikotos County, Eastern Equatoria State, six wildlife officers and one soldier of the Sudan People's Liberation Army were killed while responding to an earlier cattle raid. On 18 May, an attack on the Jikany Nuer village in Ulang County, Upper Nile State, left 27 dead and 19 wounded, mainly women and children. In May, an unknown number of civilians were killed and displaced following an escalation in cattle raiding among the Koch, Mayom and Rubkona counties of Unity State.

29. UNMISS continued to support State-level efforts to reduce the violence through patrols in vulnerable areas. In the tri-State area, cooperation mechanisms between UNMISS and County Commissioners to prevent attacks were enhanced, although the Peace and Reconciliation Commission has indefinitely suspended its plans to hold simultaneous peace conferences in each of the tri-States due to a lack of funds.

30. Following the attack on 8 February on a Lou Nuer community in Jonglei State during which more than 100 lives were lost, UNMISS actively engaged with communities and national authorities to prevent retaliation by the Lou Nuer. Between 8 February and 30 May 2013, UNMISS facilitated a series of visits by political leaders and other influential stakeholders to a number of Lou Nuer areas across Jonglei State, while the Mission also engaged leaders of the main communities of Jonglei at both the Juba and State levels, as well as civil society and faith-based organizations, to urge restraint and bring a halt to all attacks.

VI. Implementation of the Mission's mandate

Mission consolidation

31. The Mission's civilian component currently comprises 850 international staff, 1,334 national staff and 421 United Nations Volunteers, with vacancy rates of 16.5, 18.5 and 25 per cent, respectively.

32. UNMISS continues to work towards the construction of 35 county support bases, which are critical to the extension of the presence of UNMISS to the county level within a five-year time frame. Currently, the Mission is operating with 17 county support bases and 10 State offices, as well as 19 company operating bases and 10 temporary operating bases and long duration patrol bases, where troops are deployed. Eight county support bases have been completed (Ezo, Kapoeta, Maridi, Melut, Nassir, Nimule, Raja and Renk) and six others, which currently support the rotational deployment of staff and patrolling, are being upgraded (Akobo, Bunj, Gok Machar, Kodok, Pibor and Turalei). Three new county support bases are under construction. As insecurity in Jonglei State has restricted the movement of personnel and equipment from Bor to Pibor, the engineering contingent of the Republic of Korea based in Bor has not been able to prepare the site for a county support base or the company operating base in Akobo. With regard to the roll-out of the 25 planned county support bases, which is a project that will deliver support to the building and upgrading of local government facilities (portals) under the auspices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 11 have been completed, and the construction of 8 additional bases is ongoing.

33. Activities at county support bases included training, co-location and capacity-building of the South Sudan National Police Service by the police component and of local administration by the civilian components.

Military component

34. As at 23 May, the strength of the military component stood at 6,876 against an authorized strength of 7,000, comprising 4,262 infantry troops, 2,287 enablers, 188 staff officers and 139 military liaison officers. Rotations occurred for the Nepalese battalion, the Cambodian contingent, the Indian contingent and the Japanese engineers, while the main body of the engineers of the Republic of Korea were deployed in early April and are currently constructing their base in Bor. The deployment of the Bangladeshi engineering company was extended to December 2013. The military component has also established temporary operating bases in Gumuruk, Manyabol and Yuai in Jonglei State.

35. Access to areas of extremely high risk in eastern Jonglei State has become increasingly challenging. The Mission has only three military transport helicopters, and the security conditions, especially where the Sudan People's Liberation Army has engaged in military operations against the Yau Yau armed group, have rendered UNMISS ground patrols more difficult. Mobility issues have been compounded by the stringent, but essential, flight restrictions put in place following the shooting down of the UNMISS helicopter in December 2012, which have severely restricted the Mission's aerial reconnaissance capability, hampering its ability to conduct surveillance, early warning and deterrence activities.

36. As part of the overall engagement with the Sudan People's Liberation Army, UNMISS conducted classes at the Sudan People's Liberation Army Staff College on the principles of the United Nations and peacekeeping for 50 officers at the level of Lieutenant-Colonel to Brigadier-General.

Police component

37. As at 24 April, the police component stood at 651 against an authorized strength of 900, from 42 Member States.

38. Registration of the South Sudan National Police Service was completed, with the names of a total of 46,427 officers entered into an electronic database. The database figures have been reconciled with the payroll, and the process for removing over 11,000 ghost workers from the system is under way. In April, with support from Germany and UNMISS, the National Operations Centre was established to improve incident reporting by the South Sudan National Police Service. Other police activities of the Mission included the training of 120 officers of the livestock patrol unit, and the provision of support for the establishment of an oversight mechanism within the South Sudan National Police Service to handle cases of misconduct.

Riverine capability

39. A formal agreement for the use of United Nations country team riverine capability could not be reached, and the use of the country team boats by UNMISS is currently limited to civilian personnel only, on a case-by-case basis. The wet lease of suitable boats will be explored in 2014.

Protection of civilians

40. The challenges related to the protection of civilians centred on Jonglei State, where the Mission continued to implement its three-tiered protection of civilians strategy. Through the first tier, which involves protection through a political process, UNMISS engaged Government and Sudan People's Liberation Army officials at all levels to reiterate their primary responsibility to protect civilians. The Mission also liaised with affected Dinka Bor, Lou Nuer and Murle communities to urge restraint and dialogue. As the Sudan People's Liberation Army intensified military operations against the Yau Yau group, UNMISS increased its demarches, including through the issuances of a public statement on 8 April emphasizing the particular importance of distinguishing between combatants and civilians, and through the diplomatic community.

41. Under the second tier, namely, protection from physical violence, UNMISS increased its military presence in Jonglei State from two to seven companies to conduct patrols for deterrence and increased its civilian presence for monitoring.

42. The Mission also continued to provide temporary physical protection to thousands of civilians, mostly women, children and the elderly, inside its bases in Pibor, Gumuruk and Manyabol. Exchanges of fire between the Sudan People's Liberation Army and armed elements in and around Pibor from March onwards resulted in civilians' seeking protection inside the UNMISS county support base in Pibor. An incident on 6 March resulted in approximately 900 civilians seeking refuge, and incidents on 21 and 22 March caused more than 1,100 civilians to seek protection in the UNMISS base. Similar incidents continued throughout April and May, resulting in approximately 400-450 civilians seeking refuge on 29 April; approximately 200 civilians seeking refuge on 8 May; and 100 civilians seeking refuge on 14 May. In other examples in Jonglei State, UNMISS also provided protection to approximately 700 civilians in its base in Gumuruk on 29 and 30 March and to 33 civilians in its base in Manyabol on 26 May.

43. Finally, under the third tier, which focuses on longer-term efforts to build a protective environment, UNMISS deployed 245 civilian-led integrated teams countrywide to monitor protection issues. The Mission also conducted 26 training events with the Government on rule of law issues and 38 training events for the South Sudan National Police Service on human rights.

44. In April, the Mission also completed internal training on the protection of civilians for more than 400 UNMISS personnel, which led to the development of State-level action plans to implement the overall UNMISS protection of civilians strategy. In partnership with the United States of America, UNMISS also conducted a scenario-based table-top simulation exercise on the protection of civilians from 7 to 9 May in Juba to enable the Mission to test and improve its guidelines and procedures for rapid response to crises.

Early warning and conflict mitigation

45. In the tri-State area of Unity, Warrap and Lakes States, UNMISS continued to support the efforts of State governments to deter and mitigate cross-State inter-communal conflict through Operation Longhorn, in which components of the Mission and local authorities share information on insecurity and facilitate the coordination of State authorities' responses. UNMISS continued to show military

presence in high-risk locations and also facilitated dialogue among members of State legislative assemblies from constituencies bordering the tri-State area by linking them via teleconferencing facilities. Cattle-raiding and conflict across State borders featured prominently in the dialogue. In Jonglei State, the Government decided to deploy 2,000 auxiliary police to Pibor County to address cattle-raiding and inter-communal violence. Implementation took time, and initial positive progress was marred by incidents of human rights violations until the auxiliary police withdrew in April.

46. On 11 March, the National Legislative Assembly summoned the governors of Lakes, Unity and Warrap States to discuss responses to tri-State violence. Strong cooperation between UNMISS and the authorities was highlighted, as was the vital role of the Mission in monitoring and improving communities' sense of security through its deterrent presence.

Child protection

47. The National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission, in collaboration with UNMISS and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), facilitated the release and family reunification of 61 boys from Sudan People's Liberation Army barracks in Mapel, Western Bahr el Ghazal State, and Pakur in Unity State. UNMISS and UNICEF also assisted in the recovery of four girls abducted in Jonglei State and in the rescue of eight children from LRA in the border area of Western Equatoria State. Plans to release children associated with the Sudan People's Liberation Army in Unity State have been finalized by the Government, with support from UNMISS and UNICEF. As at 29 May, of the 11 schools occupied by South Sudan's security forces, five have been vacated. The issue of the remaining six schools has been raised with the highest levels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, and with continued advocacy it is expected that the Sudan People's Liberation Army will relocate elsewhere. UNMISS also facilitated targeted training on child protection for 587 Sudan People's Liberation Army troops.

Conflict-related sexual violence

48. During the reporting period, UNMISS provided awareness-raising sessions on sexual violence for Sudan People's Liberation Army and South Sudan National Police Service officers. For example, on 20 April, in Lakes State, the Mission trained 60 female Sudan People's Liberation Army officers and staff on responses to sexual violence. UNMISS investigated cases of alleged sexual violence linked to inter-communal conflict across the country, including the abduction of women and children, forced marriage and sexual violence perpetrated by the security forces.

Justice and corrections

49. UNMISS continued to support the Government of South Sudan in strengthening civil and military justice systems through capacity-building, technical support and civic education. The Mission provided support to high-level national workshops on traditional justice and legal aid and helped the University of Juba convene public lectures on legal and constitutional issues. The Mission also continued to support the expansion of juvenile remand review boards, and, in cooperation with UNDP, facilitated Government-led rule of law forums at the State level. UNMISS also provided technical support to the Sudan People's Liberation

Army Directorate of Military Justice on the review of the Sudan People's Liberation Army Act and its regulations, as well as capacity-building to the Sudan People's Liberation Army Directorate of Military Justice and Military Police to strengthen their coordination mechanisms.

50. The National Prison Service of South Sudan made significant efforts to improve prison conditions, including the establishment of a Food and Nutrition Unit. On 26 April, the Council of Ministers approved far-reaching measures to reform the prison system, including the introduction of alternatives to imprisonment, intensification of prison agriculture and industry projects, and construction of a Prisons College and three prisons training schools. UNMISS and UNDP also continued to support personnel registration and screening for the National Prison Service of South Sudan, which is a critical step in right-sizing the Service. Meanwhile, UNMISS continued working with counterparts in the Government to address prolonged arbitrary detentions, including through awareness-raising, dissemination of data and the provision of support to the launch of mobile courts and the temporary deployment of judges.

51. During the reporting period, 163 former prisoners arrived in Juba as part of an amnesty of prisoners of South Sudanese origin granted by the Sudan in December 2012.

Human rights

52. The arbitrary arrest and detention of individuals perceived to be critical of the Government continued, as did detentions without charge or court appearances, and detentions of civilians in military facilities. In early May, the acting managing editor of the newspaper *Juba Monitor* was arrested and detained without access to legal counsel for three days. Across South Sudan, UNMISS was constrained in its ability to investigate several reports of grave human rights violations owing to insecurity or denial of access to detainees. In Lakes State, UNMISS was granted regular access to interview civilian detainees held at military facilities only in April, when a total of 69 civilians were still detained there. On 29 April, the former director of Rumbek Prison, three prison officers and five police officers detained at the Langchok military detention facility by order of the acting Governor of Lakes State since 21 February, were released. UNMISS has engaged with the acting Governor and officials at the highest levels of the Government to raise concerns related to the human rights situation in Lakes State.

53. The Mission continued to receive reports of grave human rights violations committed by members of the security forces, in particular in areas of Jonglei State. Of particular concern were: reports that members of the Sudan People's Liberation Army had shot at a group of civilians between Pibor and Gumuruk in Jonglei State on 1 April, killing five and wounding up to 10; reports of the killing of civilians, the alleged burning of houses and a clinic in Budi County, Eastern Equatoria State, by Sudan People's Liberation Army soldiers on 16 April; and reports that members of the Sudan People's Liberation Army had shot and killed a woman and two of her children and seriously wounded another child at Maniyabok near Pibor on 7 May. On 15 April, the South Sudan National Police Service also informed UNMISS that auxiliary police in Manyabol, Jonglei State, had shot dead one woman on 6 April and another three civilians on 12 April. On 20 May, in Pibor, Sudan People's Liberation Army s[illegible]iers reportedly looted and vandalized a primary school located

opposite the County Commissioner's office. UNMISS followed up on those and other incidents and has conducted initial fact-finding investigations to verify the reports.

54. On 17 May, President Kiir issued a statement expressing deep concern over violence perpetrated against civilians in Jonglei State, as well as the looting and destruction of their property and that of humanitarian agencies in Pibor town, Jonglei State, including by national security forces. He vowed that those responsible would be held accountable. The outcome of several Government investigations, including into the alleged extrajudicial killing of 13 people by members of the Sudan People's Liberation Army in the village of Lotho, Gumuruk payam, Jonglei State, in December 2012, remain pending.

55. On 5 April, UNMISS released its report on the investigation into the attack on 8 February in Wangar in Jonglei State, which found that a group of armed elements had attacked a group of Lou Nuer pastoralists, mostly women and children, killing more than 100 of them. The report highlighted the responsibility of the Government to protect civilians and the urgent need to improve its early warning systems.

56. In Western Bahr el Ghazal State, three judges were designated by the Chief Justice to hear cases related to the violence in Wau in December 2012. Following discussions with the Governor and the Chief Justice, the Mission provided s[illegible]port for the transport of the judges to Wau. The trials of detainees, some of whom are members of the security forces, are proceeding, although there have not yet been any arrests or charges filed against any members of the security forces alleged to have been involved in the shooting of nine unarmed protestors on 9 December 2012. In monitoring the trials, UNMISS noted that basic guarantees of fair trial had been observed, including access to defence counsel. However, reports of intimidation by the security forces of members of the defence counsel team and witnesses, as well as of possible Government interference in the judicial process, remained causes for concern.

57. The Government took preliminary steps towards becoming a party to a number of important human rights and refugee treaties. On 17 May, the Council of Ministers approved the legal opinions for accession to the nine core international human rights treaties, plus the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Organization of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. This package of international instruments is being submitted to the National Legislative Assembly for ratification.

58. On 8 April, the Mission finalized its standard operating procedure on implementation of the United Nations human rights due diligence policy regarding UNMISS support to the Government of South Sudan security forces.

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

59. The pilot phase of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration began on 15 April at the transitional facility in Mapel, Western Bahr el Ghazal State. Of the target caseload of 500 ex-combatants, the first group of approximately 236, including 222 men and 14 women, has been demobilized, verified and registered at the facility, where the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is providing skills training with in-kind support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The pilot phase will mark the start of a

multi-year disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme aimed at right-sizing South Sudan's armed forces and other uniformed services. The Government has already requested support for a second round of demobilization to commence by the end of 2013, although approval should be subject to a full review of the pilot phase, including the sustainability of the initiative and its linkage to security sector reform.

60. In addition to building the transitional facility in Mapel, UNMISS provided training for the National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission trainers and case workers managing the facility, and continued the construction of two additional facilities. The Mission is also implementing 15 reinsertion projects in the communities where the facilities are located.

Security sector reform

61. In collaboration with the African Union, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, UNMISS provided technical training and logistical support to Government-led national consultations on a draft national security policy, which sets out core values, national interests and a strategic security vision, and highlights challenges and opportunities posed by the security environment. The consultations included State authorities and representatives of civil society, as well as traditional leaders and political parties in all 10 States.

62. With UNMISS support, the Government also established two security sector oversight coordination mechanisms in Lakes and Western Equatoria States. As part of its engagement with the Sudan People's Liberation Army, the Mission also trained members of the Sudan People's Liberation Army and South Sudan National Police Service in accountability mechanisms, as well as in the marking, registration and physical security of small arms.

Mine action

63. The United Nations Mine Action Service and its partners surveyed 404 kilometres of roads, including the main road between Bor and Malakal. Of the total 137,944,810 square metres estimated to be a contaminated area for known hazards in South Sudan, a total of 6,897,094 square metres of both residential and agricultural land were cleared of mines during the reporting period. This represents 5 per cent of the total known contaminated area. Meanwhile, nearly 22,000 individuals received mine risk education. The Mine Action Service is collaborating with the United Nations police and other partners in training national police explosive ordnance disposal teams. The Mine Action Service is also investigating unconfirmed reports of remining in Jonglei State.

Implementation of the Peacebuilding Support Plan

64. The Peacebuilding Support Plan continues to be implemented, albeit at a slower pace than expected owing to insecurity, political constraints and austerity. Upon receipt of $10 million from the Peacebuilding Support Office, the South Sudan Peacebuilding Fund Steering Committee was established on 9 March. The Committee comprises representatives from the Government, international partners, the United Nations and civil society, and the funds have now been allocated to two priority deliverables in the Peacebuilding Support Plan: vocational and literacy training for youth; and the building of *haffirs* and water-points in crisis-prone areas. UNMISS and UNDP are working to finalize a joint road map on integrated United

Nations support to the 2015 elections. The Mission has also provided support to the successful holding of peace conferences in Jonglei, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Eastern Equatoria and Unity States.

Quick-impact projects

65. For the fiscal year 2012/13, UNMISS has allocated almost $2 million towards quick-impact projects at the county level. To ensure local participation, the Mission facilitated the creation of Community Development Grant Committees, which are responsible for identifying and prioritizing projects and will aim to address community infrastructure needs.

VII. Humanitarian situation, recovery and development

66. Hostilities in Jonglei State, the refugee situation and food insecurity were the key humanitarian challenges. While an overall improvement in food security was reported compared with 2012, it is anticipated that at least 1 million people will continue to be severely food insecure in 2013.

67. Thousands of people have been internally displaced in Jonglei State since March. Since the beginning of 2013, over 5,000 South Sudanese, the majority from Jonglei State, have been registered in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, while more than 20,000 people from Jonglei State have arrived in Ethiopia. The arrival of refugees into South Sudan from Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States in the Sudan has decreased, and estimates of anticipated arrivals during 2013 have been lowered from 350,000 to 263,000. A new refugee site opened in Unity State in April, and another opened in Upper Nile State in May; transfers to those new camps are ongoing.

68. The hepatitis E outbreak in refugee sites in Upper Nile and Unity States that was reported in mid-2012 was brought under control by the first quarter of 2013. Aid organizations maintained water and sanitation programmes to ensure disease control. An outbreak of meningitis that was reported in Upper Nile State in April had resulted in 141 cases as of 26 May, 7 of which were fatal, before it was brought under control.

69. Humanitarian access continues to be undermined by ongoing active hostilities, attacks against aid workers, Government interference in humanitarian activities and the impassability of roads given the onset of the rainy season. Government interference included the attempted expulsion of two international staff members working with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and at least 10 other humanitarian workers from their regular duty stations since the beginning of the year. Increased hostilities between the Sudan People's Liberation Army and armed groups and the direct targeting of humanitarian workers over the course of March and April led to the temporary suspension of almost all humanitarian activities in Pibor. Following the relocation of aid workers from Pibor town, State security forces indiscriminately looted civilian property and humanitarian supplies and partially destroyed a medical facility. Food items, including nutritional supplements intended for malnourished children, were also looted from the storage facility of the World Food Programme.

70. The International Organization for Migration registered over 29,000 South Sudanese returnees, mainly from the Sudan, marking a sharp decline from the nearly 60,000 returnees registered during the corresponding period in 2012. Approximately

70,000 South Sudanese nationals are expected to return in 2013, including those who were stranded in Khartoum and Kosti, from the Sudan. Return conditions remained hazardous, however, with insecurity along most routes and continuing difficulties in crossing borders. Reintegration opportunities for returnees remained scarce, despite efforts to develop adequate land allocation policies at the central level.

VIII. Cross-cutting issues in the Mission

Public information

71. UNMISS continued its outreach to increase public understanding about the Mission's mandate. In Jonglei State, United Nations Radio Miraya broadcast messages stressing the impartiality of UNMISS in protecting civilians, while the Mission organized four public workshops on its mandate.

Implementation of the review of civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict

72. The next phase of the national staff development programme, through which 1,500 staff members have been trained thus far in management, leadership and technical subjects, will commence in June 2013, with a focus on vocational and technical skills, and information technology.

73. UNMISS is raising awareness of local business communities on United Nations procurement opportunities through the High-level Committee on Management Procurement Network.

74. Under the Intergovernmental Authority on Development Regional Initiative for Capacity Enhancement in South Sudan, 44 civil servants seconded from the Government of Kenya and embedded in core ministerial functions of the Government of South Sudan, completed their two-year assignment in May.

Conduct and discipline

75. UNMISS continued awareness-raising on sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. A total of 5,285 individuals from the Mission, the United Nations country team, the Government and civil society attended UNMISS-delivered training across the country. The Mission is developing a similar outreach campaign for the local population.

Women, peace and security

76. The United Nations continued to provide technical support and training to the Government of South Sudan on gender mainstreaming, the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, and ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. UNMISS and partners also provided logistical support to women's organizations to hold the first women's national conference on constitutional development from 6 to 10 May in Juba. Proposals formulated at the conference included a 35 per cent quota for female representation at all levels of Government, including the civil service and security forces, as well as in political parties, and a 5 per cent national budget allocation for women's empowerment programmes. From 23 to 27 April, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women conducted training for 25 women leaders selected from four States (Warrap, Lakes, Eastern Equatoria and Western

Equatoria) aimed at supporting the capacity-building of women in peacebuilding and mediation and conflict resolution at the community level.

HIV/AIDS

77. The United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS provided technical and financial support to the AIDS Commission to develop a national strategic plan for 2013-2017, as well as technical support on HIV/AIDS legislation and training on the prevention, treatment and care of HIV/AIDS to national and State-level ministries, security services and the general population.

Staff security

78. The main threats to United Nations personnel in South Sudan emanated from ill-discipline, command and control challenges, and lack of understanding among national security services of the rights and privileges of United Nations personnel, as well as activities of armed groups and criminal activities.

79. The United Nations Board of Inquiry investigation into the 21 December 2012 shooting down of an UNMISS helicopter, in which four Russian crew members were killed, has been completed. The report established the responsibility of the Sudan People's Liberation Army for the incident.

80. A number of violations of the status-of-forces agreement occurred during the reporting period involving UNMISS staff, including seven cases of arrest and detention, one assault, and one other case involving the illegal search of United Nations vehicles at Sudan People's Liberation Army checkpoints in Juba. For example, on 17 March, in Rumbek, Lakes State, one international UNMISS staff member driving a United Nations vehicle and one international non-governmental organization staff member driving the organization's vehicle, were stopped by armed members of the Sudan People's Liberation Army near the Lakes State Hospital. They were harassed and detained for one hour at the local police station.

81. UNMISS continues to raise violations of the status-of-forces agreement with the Government, both individually and collectively. On 30 May, as part of its engagement strategy with the Government on the safety and security of United Nations personnel, UNMISS gave a detailed presentation on the status-of-forces agreement and host government responsibilities to the Government-UNMISS Joint Mechanism on mandate implementation and raised serious concerns about the situation. The Government undertook to examine a detailed list of specific violations and hold further discussions with UNMISS on how to sensitize all personnel of the Government security agencies to the terms of the status-of-forces agreement in order to curb the incidence of violations.

82. The unilateral expulsion on 23 October 2012 of a senior Human Rights Officer from UNMISS, which had no justification and was in clear violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the status-of-forces agreement, has yet to be reversed.

83. With the attacks on the United Nations mentioned above in paragraphs 22 and 23, additional mitigation measures have been put in place to protect the personnel and assets of the Organization. Coordination and communication with national security forces on movements of convoys, patrols and flights has been enhanced, and all movement in high-risk areas now requires additional review of the criticality of the task to be accomplished. In addition, the Mission is exploring the possibility of

employing direct communications facilities at the division headquarters of the Sudan People's Liberation Army in Jonglei State to enhance communication and safety.

Review of the Mission's mandate implementation

84. In advance of the expiration of the mandate of UNMISS in July 2013, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and the Mission conducted a comprehensive review of the Mission's operations, including a military capability study, in April. The review concluded that the core mandate of UNMISS, namely, the protection of civilians and support for the establishment and extension of accountable State authority, remained valid.

85. Yet the review found that UNMISS, while making progress in the implementation of its mandate, has faced considerable security and political challenges which have curtailed its operational capacity and which have shifted the initial assumptions and resource allocation plans that were made in 2011. The Mission has been in constant crisis management mode in Jonglei State, and its air and ground movements have been hampered by attacks on its personnel and assets, the lack of a sufficient number of military helicopters and restrictions imposed on the commercially contracted civilian helicopters owing to insecurity. The deployment of key military enabling units has been delayed, and UNMISS is currently facing a de facto shortfall in engineering capacity of over 50 per cent. This has constrained the Mission's plans to decentralize its presence to the county level in order to support the extension of State authority through the county support bases.

86. Notwithstanding those challenges, the review reiterated that the prevention and resolution of conflicts ultimately requires increased capacity and resolve on the part of the Government to address recurrent tensions through inclusive and accountable decision-making processes and institutions. The review stressed that in order to meet this goal and fulfil its protection mandate, the Mission's efforts to support the political settlement of conflicts and invest in the establishment and extension of effective and accountable State authority should be given the same importance as its crisis management activities.

87. The review identified areas within the Mission requiring adjustment in order to better respond to those challenges and emerging threats. It recommended, inter alia, that UNMISS develop options for the geographical reconfiguration of its military and asset deployment so as to focus on volatile high-risk areas and associated protection requirements. It also noted that support for the extension of State authority would require cooperation with other partners, including the International Financial Institutions and donor agencies. Funding from donor countries would be necessary to support programmes at the State level to provide the local administrative institutions with basic operational support. The review thus recommended that UNMISS and the United Nations country team undertake a joint review of the United Nations family's respective comparative advantages in support of the extension of civilian State authority by the end of 2013.

88. UNMISS is currently facing a grave mobility crisis, which is having a severe impact on the delivery of the Mission's priority tasks as well as on its ability to protect the United Nations family's personnel and assets. The Mission's military is affected by a critical limitation of capacity for rapid reaction and inability to collect early warning information through aerial reconnaissance. The Mission's ability to provide a timely response to protection needs and access vulnerable population

centres are hampered by the lack of adequate mobility by air, land and water. The Mission's aerial reconnaissance capability is underresourced and further constrained by stringent, but essential, aviation safety rules. There is also a gap of three military helicopters. The only dedicated heavy lift capacity available to the Mission to move forces and vehicles is an Mi-26 helicopter, which is shared with UNISFA. Movement by road is challenging, particularly in Jonglei State where fighting is ongoing. The ambush of 9 April 2013 underlines the risks for Mission convoys. The review concluded, therefore, that the provision of force multipliers was essential and would enable the Mission to quickly and effectively offset the numerical inferiority that United Nations troops may be confronted with during engagements in the protection of civilians and in meeting force protection needs.

Financial aspects

89. The General Assembly, by its resolution 66/243 B, appropriated the amount of $839,490,000 for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013.

90. As at 7 June 2013, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNMISS Special Account amount to $50.1 million. Total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at the same date amount to $1,236.4 million.

91. As at 7 June 2013, reimbursement to troop-contributing governments for troop and contingent-owned equipment costs has been made for the period to 31 January 2013 and 31 December 2012, respectively, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

IX. Observations and recommendations

92. Nearly two years into its independence, the Republic of South Sudan continues its journey as the world's newest country. I commend South Sudan's progress in a number of important areas. These include, most notably, improved relations with the Sudan, the internal dialogue with armed groups, which has yielded some positive results, a renewed commitment to advancing the national reconciliation process, advances in the transformation of the South Sudan National Police Service and steps taken to end prolonged, arbitrary detentions.

93. Nevertheless, a number of setbacks occurred which could undermine such progress. Those involved a marked deterioration in the security situation in Jonglei State and continuing human rights violations by national security institutions. The reach of State authority in conflict-prone areas, such as Jonglei State, also remains constrained, and efforts to establish effective rule of law throughout the country have yielded limited results.

94. South Sudan continues to face challenges in implementing political reforms and strengthening public institutions. Bodies crucial to successful transition, such as the National Constitutional Review Commission and the National Elections Commission, need adequate budgetary allocations from the Government to advance their work. Although appointed in December 2012, members of the Political Parties Council, the functioning of which is essential to the registration of political parties prior to the elections, have not yet been sworn in.

95. While the demands imposed by the austerity budget are stringent, institution-building must be given a high priority as South Sudan consolidates its political transition. Security can be guaranteed across the country only when there is inclusive governance and public trust in the democratic process. I recommend that UNMISS extend its support for the preparation of the elections in 2015. Details of this support will be finalized pending the outcome of a planned United Nations needs assessment mission.

96. Critical to South Sudan's political transition will be the expansion of political space within the country. I remain disturbed by the erosion of respect for the right to freedom of expression and the intimidation of the media and civil society in particular. I am concerned that, despite official and public commitments to improve respect for human rights by the country's top leadership, national and State authorities are struggling to translate those assurances into action. Cases of arbitrary arrest, detention, torture and extrajudicial killings by security forces and agencies, as well as the inability of the authorities to hold those responsible to account, are particularly worrisome. I call upon the Government to take urgent measures to curb ongoing human rights violations. In addition to my regular reports and briefings to the Security Council, UNMISS will enhance its human rights reporting through the issuance of thematic or incident-related public reports.

97. I am deeply troubled by the escalation of violence in Jonglei State, as well as the continuing inter-communal violence in the tri-State area. In Jonglei State, clashes between the David Yau Yau armed group and the Sudan People's Liberation Army have led to the loss of life and property and the displacement of the civilian population. I am alarmed by the violence against United Nations personnel and aid workers and their assets in Jonglei State, especially where humanitarian access remains the key challenge to meeting urgent humanitarian needs in Pibor County. The lack of verifiable information from either side about civilian casualties, as well as casualties within armed groups, is also disconcerting.

98. I urge the Government to do more to establish effective strategies to address the underlying political causes of perennial violence and bring lasting peace and stability to those volatile areas. The establishment of the National Reconciliation Committee is an indication of the readiness to foster national dialogue. It is vital that armed groups pursuing violent conflict renounce their armed struggles and address their grievances within the political framework.

99. Given the serious operational challenges facing the Mission, as well as the critical resource and capability gaps that are undermining the Mission's mobility and thus its ability to implement its mandate, the Secretariat, working with UNMISS, will identify preferable and available options for the generation of force multipliers (such as unarmed, unmanned aerial systems, helicopter gunships and supplementary heavy lift and riverine capabilities), drawing on the recently completed military capability study. The deployment of the unarmed, unmanned aerial systems will be considered only once the pilot project within the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been evaluated, and helicopter gunships will be considered as a shared asset within the framework of inter-mission cooperation.

100. While UNMISS continues to focus on the protection of civilians as one of its core tasks, the primary responsibility for the protection of civilians in South Sudan lies with the Government. A peacekeeping mission, however configured, cannot

replace the Government, which is also responsible for ensuring the safety and security, and freedom of movement, of United Nations personnel and assets deployed to assist it in this regard. I reiterate my condemnation of violence against United Nations personnel in South Sudan and recall the requirement for the Government to hold the perpetrators of those attacks accountable, irrespective of who the perpetrators are. In particular, those responsible in the Sudan People's Liberation Army for the December 2012 shooting of the UNMISS helicopter must be brought to justice immediately.

101. I recommend a further one-year extension of the mandate of UNMISS. The end goal remains for the Government to progressively develop its ability and authority to prevent, mitigate and resolve inter-communal tensions and conflicts through an effective civilian administration where law and order institutions play a central role. The Sudan People's Liberation Army should be gradually transformed and its operational activities restricted to national defence. The benchmarks for measuring progress towards this end state will be circulated separately to Council members.

102. Finally, I would like to thank my Special Representative, Hilde Frafjord Johnson, as well as the civilian, military and police personnel serving in UNMISS, for their dedication to the cause of consolidating peace in South Sudan. In addition, I am grateful to the United Nations country team and its partners for their work in promoting development and stability in South Sudan, as well as to the Member States who contribute troops and police to the Mission. The peacekeepers and United Nations civilian staff who have made the ultimate sacrifice will be forever remembered for their bravery, dedication and commitment to peace for South Sudan.